Approved For Release 2003/08/18 : CIA-RDP83B00100R000100130028-2

25X1

7 JUL 1976

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Operations Advisory Group

FROM: George Bush

SUBJECT: Proposed SR-71 Mission in the Taiwan Strait

1. I am attaching a coordinated review of the proposed change 2 to the July Reconnaissance schedule which involves an SR-71 flight in the Taiwan Strait. This is in response to your request of 5 July 1976.

2. The review reflects divergencies on these points.

a. Need: DOD believes the PRC build-up and activity are substantial and PRC intentions unclear thus additional photo coverage is required to fill gaps in our knowledge. CIA and State believe the situation is not as serious as described by DOD and the chances of PRC military action are remote.

[redacted] 25X1D

c. Political Implications: State and CIA believe an SR-71 flight along the coast would be provocative to the PRC especially at a time of uncertainty in China. DOD believes the flight would not be as provocative as described by CIA and State.

3. Based on the evidence available to date, I would recommend against such a flight. The political risk outweighs the potential intelligence gain. I do believe, however, that PRC heightened activity in the Taiwan Strait area requires close monitoring. This should be accomplished where possible by using existing assets and not by using means likely to be provocative to the PRC.

/s/ George Bush

JCS REVIEW COMPLETED

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George Bush

Attachment
Coordinated Review

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Operations Advisory Group

FROM: George Bush

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